

193

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Portinax made the fatal mistake of trying to change too much too quickly. He curbed the excesses of the praetorian guard: a popular move, but hardly calculated to endear the emperor to the soldiery.

Portinax publicly blamed the imperial freedmen for shortage of funds in the imperial treasury. These two items placed Portinax in position of considerable danger

Early  
Mar 193

A serious coup attempt failed. The praetorian guard were behind the move; but this time their candidate was Quintus SORIVS FALCO. The consul the plot was betrayed & though FALCO was found innocent, several of the soldiers were executed.

193-7

liral emperors after murder  
of Commodus (180-192 AD)

193-235 AD

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Severan Dynasty  
( 'military Monarchy' ) :  
Septimius Severus 193-211  
Caracalla 211-217  
Elagabalus 218-222  
Severus Alexander 222-235

man  
193

The death of Pertinax had in fact led  
three rival candidates to declare  
themselves, each in command of frontier  
armies. First was GAIUS PESCENNIVS  
NIGER, gov. of Syria. He was  
proclaimed emperor by the four Syrian  
legions in the middle of Apr 193,  
and made Antioch his temporary capital.

Mar 193

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Lucius Septimius Severus  
governor of Upper Pannonia on  
the middle Danube declared.

A subtle and astute politician,  
he soon won the support of the  
entire Rhine/Danube army,  
including no fewer than 16  
legions

28 Mar 193

First Candidate was TITUS FLAVIUS SULPICIANUS, the father of Pertinax's wife & 2nd was MARCUS DIDIVS JULIANUS, a distinguished ex-consul and reputedly a man of considerable means.

The bidding went on for some time but eventually the soldiers' choice fell on DIDIVS JULIANUS. He not only bid the higher price, but also warned them that if they elected SULPICIANUS, they might expect

revenge at his hands for the  
murder of Portinoy



28 Mar 193

Portinax had cancelled his public engagements for the day & was at the palace. A contingent of 300 soldiers rushed the gates: neither the guards on duty nor the palace officials sought to resist them. Portinax was advised to flee but decided to stay & face his attackers. He tried to reason with them; but all in vain.

While he was speaking, one of the soldiers lunged forward and struck him shouting

1 The soldiers have sent you this sword. The other soldiers joined in, raining blows on the 66-year-old man until he was dead. He had ruled for only 87 days.

Bearing Portunus's head aloft on a pole, the soldiers responsible for his death hurried back to the praetorian camp and shut the gates, fearful how the people of Rome would react.

2 Candidates presented themselves at the camp & proceeded to bid for the support of the soldiers.

28 MAR 193

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Perthney was murdered  
on the Palatine at Rome by the Praetorian Guard

Didius Julianus became emperor  
Nerva, ALBINUS and Septimus Severus  
proclaimed rival emperors by  
their legions

28 Mar 193

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Didius Julianus become emperor.

He had one daughter DIDIA Clara  
with his wife MANLIA SCANTILLA

193

DURANT

Pertinax and Didius Julianus  
emperors.

193-284

1912 Dates J-BK

Rome

Emperors were appointed mainly  
by the soldiers

193

1912 Dates J-BK  
lme

Porter (Thompson) was  
murdered by the practitioners.

193AD

1912 Dates J-BK

Rome

DIDIVS JULIANUS was placed  
on the throne by the praetorians.